

Go-Along Page 1

Topic Talk

List three topics inspired by *Buried Sunlight* and a question you have about each of them.

TOPIC 1:

QUESTION:

TOPIC 2:

QUESTION:

TOPIC 3:

QUESTION:

Write-On Sheet 1

It Matters to Me

Choose one topic from Go-Along Page 1 and share your opinion about why it is important to you. Take the perspective of something or someone in *Buried Sunlight*. Be sure to use facts to make your opinion credible.

THINK ABOUT

- Have I chosen a topic that I really like?
- Do I have something new to say about this topic?
- Am I writing about what I know and care about?
- Have I gathered enough information so that I'm ready to write?

Go-Along Page 2

Around a Topic

Choose an unfocused topic and write it at the top of the page. Then focus the topic by filling in the circles with increasingly specific information about it.

UNFOCUSED TOPIC: _____



FOCUSED TOPIC:

Write-On Sheet 2

Take a Stand!

Write your opinion about the focused topic from Go-Along Page 2. Use information from *Buried Sunlight* and other resources to make your opinion clear and credible.

THINK ABOUT

- Have I zeroed in on one small part of a bigger idea?
- Can I sum up my idea in a simple sentence?
- Have I chosen the information that best captures my idea?
- Have I thought deeply about what the reader will need to know?

Go-Along Page 3

The Impact of Facts

The section of *Buried Sunlight* that your group selected:

List the facts, details, and statistics from that section that help you understand its message and set the stage for the next section.

Write-On Sheet 3

Your Challenge!

Use the information from *Buried Sunlight*, as well as your own research, to develop an opinion inspired by the book's ending:

"Will you humans keep burning more and more fossil fuels every year and risk the changes this will bring? Or will you work together to use my ancient sunlight more slowly, find other sources of energy, and invent ways to thin the blanket of CO₂? The choice is yours."

THINK ABOUT

- Am I sure my information is right?
- Are my details chock-full of interesting information?
- Have I used details that show new thinking about this idea?
- Will my reader believe what I say about this topic?

Go-Along Page 4

Details Count

As you listen to your teacher read from *Buried Sunlight*, record details you notice in the text and illustrations.

Write-On Sheet 4

Change Can Happen!

You have just been hired as the President's speechwriter. The President has decided to address the public about fossil fuels. She agrees with the authors of *Buried Sunlight* that we are burning fossil fuels too quickly, and it's harming our environment. As speechwriter, it's your job to convey facts in an interesting, informative, and persuasive way.

THINK ABOUT

- Did I create a picture in the reader's mind?
- Did I use details that draw upon the five senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch)?
- Do my details stay on the main topic?
- Did I stretch for details beyond the obvious?